

treated well, but today I'm able to attend one of the best schools in Philadelphia. I was proud when my grandmother shared stories from Africa.

We finished the project with an international lunch. We enjoyed dishes and wore clothes from our country of origin.

FINALIST, ROBERT BANOVIC, PITTSBURGH, PA
MY ROAD TO AMERICA

When the war started, I was four years old. I lived with my mom, dad, grandmother, and grandfather. One day my dad went to the war. My mom said that he would come back soon but he never did.

As we sat down to eat one day, the shaking and screaming began. There was dust all over. They threw a grenade in my house and killed my grandfather who I loved a lot. The door and bricks fell on me. Everywhere around me were dead people—men, women, and children. The war didn't choose.

My uncle took my mom, grandmother, and me to another city. From there we moved on again but my mom didn't come because she was trapped in the city we came from. My grandmother died three months later and I was left with a woman I didn't even know. I didn't see my mom for six months. When she came, the war was still going on but I didn't care, at least I had my mom. My dad was gone, my grandfather and grandmother, too—all of them died in one year.

When my mom and I came to the United States, it was hard and we cried a lot. We didn't have any friends and we didn't know how to speak English. But we have a lot more here than we did in Bosnia. Most of all we have freedom. Now I'm one happy kid who is glad we are here!

FINALIST, MEGAN IMRIE, ORLAND PARK, IL
LIBERIO

This is a true story. It is to show why I am glad America is a nation of immigrants.

My great-grandfather was an immigrant from Italy. In the 1930s people did not get paid much and had to work very long hours. His name was Liberio. When people became tired with the way their bosses treated them, they picketed for unions. Liberio and his co-workers were among these workers. Liberio was their leader. One day during a picket, the police arrested him and his co-workers. When it was Liberio's turn to be questioned, the police asked why they were picketing, since this is America. Then Liberio said: "I know all about America. My name is Liberio and it means liberty. I have three sons. My first son is named Salvatore, which means salvation. America gives salvation to people who are poor, hungry, persecuted or even in danger. My next son's name is Victorio, which means victory. Victory stands for America because we are victorious over depression and hardships and other countries that are against our way of life. My last son's name is Franco which means freedom. Freedom is America. Its people can believe, can live and dream however they choose. Do not tell me I do not know what America is." When the police heard this, they let my great-grandfather and his companions go. I feel that this is very important because it made many understand what America is.

FINALIST, CARTER JONES, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

AMERICA AS A QUILT

I like to think of America As a huge quilt, Each person acting as A small thread, Each person's character Describes the color Of each thread. Each person's appearance De-

termines the texture Of each thread. Each family acts as A group of threads. Each family's love For each other Determines how the Threads are placed. When a marriage occurs Two more threads Are woven together. When all the families Are woven together, It makes a very Unique fabric.

As the fabric grows, It forms quilt pieces That form a Complete quilt. Each family has its Own unique pattern That determines the Way the quilt Patches will look. If you were To take other Country's quilts and Compare them to The United States' Quilt, you would Get a very different Product because Of different foods And different Traditions of each Country in the world. The United States Quilt would have A very different Texture and color Than any other Country in the world. All the different Characteristics and skin Colors of people Around the world Make our quilt Beautiful.

If you were to Look at the United States' Quilt, really Study it, you Would find Characteristics Of all the other Countries on it.

People have Immigrated here From other countries, And because of that, Each quilt patch Is different from The next quilt patch. Immigrants from Countries other than The United States Bring different foods And traditions, which Change the colors and Textures of the United States' beautiful And unique quilt.

FINALIST, AMANDA TABATA, HONOLULU, HI

I'm proud to live in a place with many immigrants.

Many people get to share customs, traditions, history, language, and many more things.

Many people do not know how lucky they are to live in a place with many immigrants. I can learn many things about a culture from one another.

Give thanks because you live in a wonderful diverse, and free country.

Really take the time to experience, and learn about all of the cultures, history, tradition, religions and many more things.

Always be proud of who you are, what culture you are, and where you come from.

Nurture, and create an appreciation for all cultures.

Together we stand in a community of different cultures, so we are strong.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 4, 1991 in Houston, TX. Eight to 10 high school and college-aged males beat Paul Broussard, 27, and two of his companions with two-by-fours, some with nails in them. Broussard died seven hours later. Police labeled the homicide a "gay bashing."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol

that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

FISCAL YEAR 2002 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I am pleased that the Senate was able to pass a Transportation Appropriations bill that fully funds the airport and highway trust funds and provides funds for high-speed rail research and development, among other things. Ensuring that our Nation's transportation infrastructure receives adequate funding for improvement and maintenance is a critical responsibility of Congress. Due in large part to TEA-21, Congress has been able to provide these necessary funds on a consistent basis.

At the same time, I continue to be concerned about unauthorized spending that is included in the accompanying report. While I appreciate the desire to respond to local requests and concerns, nevertheless Congress must work harder to rein itself in when it comes to this type of spending. We all know that this is not an easy task. While I disagree with the President's tax cut which has reduced the availability of funds for necessary programs, nevertheless I am encouraged by the Administration's recent announcement that it wants to work with Congress to cut back unauthorized spending in appropriations bills.

Adequate funding for our entire transportation infrastructure is one of my highest budget priorities. I am pleased that this bill accomplishes that goal.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, August 1, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,706,162,161,657.50, five trillion, seven hundred six billion, one hundred sixty-two million, one hundred sixty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

One year ago, August 1, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,652,485,270,404.28, five trillion, six hundred fifty-two billion, four hundred eighty-five million, two hundred seventy thousand, four hundred four dollars and twenty-eight cents.

Five years ago, August 1, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,636,383,503.29, five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, six hundred thirty-six million, three hundred eighty-three thousand, five hundred three dollars and twenty-nine cents.

Ten years ago, August 1, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,577,200,000,000, three trillion, five hundred seventy-seven billion, two hundred million.

Fifteen years ago, August 1, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,079,858,000,000, two trillion, seventy-nine billion, eight